



4<sup>th</sup> November TUKITUKI RIVER

An easy river trip in the eastern Ruahines.

Names to Nic Bishop, 70-217

Grading: Easy  
Cost: \$3.00  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Sunday.

8<sup>th</sup> November COMMITTEE MEETING

At 7 Tern Place at 7.45 p.m.

9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November DISTRICT SAREX – NGAMOKO RANGE

The annual district search and rescue exercise to be held in the Ruahines. Suitable for fit persons to act as leaders and instructors. Numbers are limited so please get names in early. Bring normal tramping gear including full storm gear and torch and be prepared to camp both Friday and Saturday Nights. Bring own food. Maps NZMS1 N140 & 145.

Names to: Kevin Pearce  
Grading: Fit  
Cost: Free  
Depart: 7.00 p.m. Friday from the Police Station.

10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November WAITEWAEWAE

One of the bid trips. The Carkeek Ridge is not often visited. The route will be South Ohau, Pukematawai, Lancaster, Carkeek, Park Forks, Nichols, Shoulder Knob, Waitewaewae and out to Otaki Forks.

Leader: Peter Darragh, 3-5633  
Grading: Fitness Essential  
Cost: \$4.50 or less depending on transport arrangements  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> November WAITEWAEWAE

Waitewaewae hut is situated in the Upper Otaki River and is reached via an old tram line, streams and a bushed saddle.

Names to: Peter Darragh, 3-5633  
Grading: Easy  
Cost: \$2.50  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

17<sup>th</sup> November KAPITI ISLAND

A permit has been obtained for 12 people to visit Kapiti Island. (A further permit has been applied for on either 17<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> November but this may not be granted).

Leader: Trevor Bissell, 73-543  
Grading: Easy  
Cost: \$9.00  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

Transport to the island will be by chartered launch from Paraparaumu Beach. Please bring only small packs as room on board will be limited.

17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> November KAPAKAPANUI

Kapakapanui Peak is situated in the Tararua Range behind Waikanae and a night can be spent in a hut not far from the top.

Leader: Don French, 73-543  
Grading: Easy  
Cost: \$3.00  
Depart: 7.00 a.m. Saturday.

18<sup>th</sup> November KAPAKAPANUI

If the weather is fine views will be available of Kapiti Island and the South Island etc. The peak may be descended by a different route to make a round trip.

Names to: Don French, 73-543  
Grading: Medium  
Cost: \$3.00

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November BALDY – MITRE

A good winter tops trip with plenty of options in routes. Bring a torch for a Friday night walk into Mitre Flats.

Leader: Stephen Moore, 81-699  
Grading: Fit  
Cost: \$3.50  
Depart: 6.30 p.m. Friday night.

24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November MITRE FLATS

The walk into Mitre Flats is easy but extra energy can be expended by climbing Mitre Peak or Baldy.

Names to: Stephen Moore, 81-699  
Grading: Medium (to Easy)  
Cost: \$3.50  
Depart: 6.00 a.m. Saturday.

29<sup>th</sup> November CLUB NIGHT

30<sup>th</sup> November SOCIAL

At the Steeple Restaurant, a dine and dance for \$6.50 a head. 25 places only have been booked, so to be sure of a place, phone Eric van Toor, 70-217 NOW.

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NOTICES

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. And Mrs. F.M. Thompson, Mt Stewart, No. 9 R.D. P.N. Phone Sanson, 748  
Keith Miller, 11 Palm Ave., P.N. Phone 89-819.

Wedding bells will be ringing for Keith Miller and Anne Hersay shortly. Best wishes to you Keith and Anne from the P.N.T.M.C.

RESIGNATION

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of John Ogilvy. Thank you, John, for your good wishes.

MAPS FOR ALL THAT SUMMER TRAMPING

Lands and Survey maps can be ordered via our Secretary through FMC giving 25% discount. If you want any for all those tramping trips this summer in the S.I. and elsewhere let Terry, 86293, know on or before October Club night so the order can get back before we all head south. (The order takes 3 – 4 weeks to get back).

Sarah also has copies of certain (mainly North Island) ones.

LOST PROPERTY

One pair of long johns returned from Ruapehu Hut Snowcraft III – got mixed up with Wellington bods gear. If they are yours ring Terry, 86-293.

WANTED TO BUY

One second hand medium size fibrefill Dampier or Te Wera jacket or similar type of Duvet. Phone Terry, 86-293.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Most of the donkey work of search and rescue (SAR) is done by civilian volunteers, mainly from tramping and deer stalking clubs. Our own club makes a significant contribution to local land SAR. We supply search teams whenever they are required. In addition two of our members (Kevin Pearce and Russ Johnson) are SAR advisers to the Police and Kevin is also a member of Federated Mountain Club's SAR committee. The Club has its own SAR sub-committee consisting of Kevin Pearce, Russ Johnson, Eric Van Toor and Trevor Bissell. Training and SAR exercises (SAREXs) are organised locally by the Palmerston North Land SAR Advisory Committee (Inc.) This committee is organising an evening of map and compass instruction on 30<sup>th</sup> October and a major SAREX with helicopter support over the weekend 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November. (See "Coming Events" for details).

In order for our Club to be able to turn out search teams at short notice it maintains a callout list of volunteers with phone numbers, details of snowcraft and first aid experience, and indication of fitness etc. This list requires regular updating and correction and this is being done at present. If you are interested in volunteering for SAR please put your name on the list next Club Night or contact Kevin (ph. 70-217). Those already on the list are also asked to contact Kevin so that he can check details on the callout list.

#### PROPOSED ADDITION TO NATIONAL PARK

LEWIS PASS – MARUIA Condensed from NFAC Newsletter No. 17.

The Lands and Survey department has now released its national park investigation of the Lewis Pass region, and is inviting public submissions. Copies of the report are available from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Department of Lands and Survey, Private Bag, Christchurch for \$2.00 each. Submissions close, at the same address, on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Please give this your serious consideration. For a full synopsis of information (phone Keith Joblin, 81-404). Those who have visited, camped or tramped the area should make an extra effort. The main thing is to express support for the proposed national park extension, especially setting out the merits of protecting the extensive flat areas of lowland red beech forest in the Glenroy and Matakītaki valleys. Anyone with knowledge of the proposed “further study” areas (Upper Grey, East Spencer Mountains) should expound the merits of protecting these.

The report’s recommendations are as follows:

1. That the Glenroy and Matakītaki Valleys be added to Nelson Lakes National Park.
2. That the Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve be extended to include all land in the upper Maruia and Lewis Valleys and their tributaries.
3. That the Doubtful Valley be added to Lake Sumner State Forest Park.
4. That the future of Lake Christabel be considered in a further investigation, which would cover all of the Robinson and Upper Grey catchments.

NFAC will be holding a workshop and slide evening on the area – details still to be worked out.

#### CYANIDE AND OTHER POISONS (from Wellington Catholic Tramping Club)

Nowadays, with large scale aerial and other trapping operations taking place in an effort to control deer, pigs, and opossums, all people making use of hill country and forest land run an increasing risk of coming across the various poison baits used in the control of these animals.

In general, all poisons that are broadcast in New Zealand are dyed a bright green, except for cyanide paste and granules. These green dyed baits come in the form of carrot cubes, jam oats and pellets and in general the poisons used are 1080.

More dangerous as far as trampers are concerned are the various types of cyanide. As with all poisons, should you find a container of this, it should be clearly labelled. However, all tins, tubes, etc. should be treated with caution. For example, containers of cyanide crystals look remarkably like plastic containers a lot of us get from the chemists to put food in. Should you be at all doubtful of a container, DON'T TOUCH IT. Keep upwind, mark its position, then report it to the nearest police station. If you notice a smell like almonds or carbide when entering a hut, RUN first. Better a live coward than a dead fool. Then thoroughly ventilate the hut until all traces of smell have gone before entering the hut to ascertain the cause.

Cyanide paste is placed in pea-sized lumps on trees, roots, twigs or anywhere and is often marked by flour lure around it or a mark on a tree. So be careful, as putting your hand on a piece or merely handling a container and then brushing your lips could give you a lethal

dose.

In conclusion, tubes of cyanide are white with bright red caps. Where poison is laid it should be signposted but it is of course easy to miss these signs, so be careful.

(Reproduced from "Pohokura", and W.T.M.C. Newsletter Oct. 1978.)

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PAST EVENTS

24<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1979. A TRIP TO THE INLAND KAIKOURAS

The Kaikouras in the extreme north-east of the South Island rise to over 2,800 metres and can provide good climbing when covered with winter snows. It was to this area that Club members Eric van Toor, Nic Bishop, Kevin Pearce, Peter Stedman and Peter Darragh went.

Heavy weather made for an "interesting" ferry crossing (actually it was boring, as usual) and difficult driving conditions. We arrived at the Hodder Bridge in the Awatere Valley in the very early hours of Saturday and bedded down on bales of hay in the hay shed. Later, after breakfast and greetings from the friendly farmer we made our way up the Hodder. The river was low but drifts of deep soft snow near the hut more than made up for this (trip time 5½ hours). The weather was grey with showers of rain and snow.

Sunday was a pit day. Snow fell lightly but steadily all day. Two very cheeky possums were in residence, in the hut porch and they didn't seem to think much of the weather either.

Monday dawned magnificently and five mountaineers emerged into the sunlight to trudge in freshly fallen snow up to the summit of the Red Hills traversing peaks 6890' and 7390' with amazing views of Mounts Gladstone, Mitre, Alarm, and the highest of all the surrounding, mountains, Tapuaenuku. It was fine, it was clear but there were rumbles in the air, the rumbles of avalanches, one activated on one side of the ridge, and shortly after another on the other side. It was decided that we had had enough excitement for one day so we set off down the avalanche chute back to the hut.

Tuesday - an early morning start was made to attempt Tapuaenuku via a ridge running from the Hodder - Gut stream junction. Soft snow made walking laborious, which coupled with perfect clear skies gave plenty of opportunity for stops to admire our surrounds.

By following a ridge route it was hoped to minimize any danger from avalanches. Success, however, depended on negotiating a section where our ridge merged into a gentle face below the Pinnacle. The snow on the face was similar to that which had avalanched the previous day, which did not encourage us to climb it, especially since we would be further exposed while sidling the Pinnacle to gain the summit ridge. So at a high point of 7,000', with another 2,000' to the summit, we decided to follow our alternative plan, which was to sunbathe.

From a comfortable and safe vantage point we amused, ourselves by designing the perfect snowball, i.e. the one to roll farthest down the slope. Some more aggressive members, however, decided to throw their snowballs at people instead, which led to Strategic Arms limitations being imposed to prevent escalation of snow fights. Peace was maintained and after a few restful hours we returned to our hut.

Wednesday - still concerned about the soft snow conditions, we set our sights on the low peak of Alarm, by the ridge between it and Mitre. The dawn was again perfect; no clouds; but with only a light frost and we soon found ourselves trudging through knee deep snow.

We ran out of fuel (sago and fruit breakfast) in less than 2 hours. After a brief pause to tank up and to throw away water bottles and mittens, we trudged on, to be confronted by a nasty looking ridge. We investigated this but with nothing to belay front in the precariously stacked snow, we turned back only about 100 metres below the summit.

Back down near the saddle, we found a parabolic hollow to improve our suntans and have lunch. The afternoon was spent looking for lost water bottles and mittens and

investigating the couloir on Mitre, which was like "wet sugar".

Frustrated once more, we headed back to the hut, arriving mid afternoon.

Thursday - as the snow conditions were not improving we set out to climb a modest objective namely the saddle between Alarm and Tappy, a point some 8450' above sea level. The snow was firmish to begin with but as the minutes ticked by it degenerated and we ended up doing a slow snow plod the same as for previous days.

Encountered first was a crossing of the upper Hodder by devious boulder hopping and snow bridge tactics followed by breaking steps on the side of waterfalls in the lower Staircase Stream. After this came long slopes to our target, though this wasn't achieved without spending a bit of time and much effort. Upon reaching the somewhat lowly summit several cameras did their bit in recording the event. When the clicks had stopped we moved onto a sheltered lee slope to feed our bodies. A good excuse for more clicking noises was the view over looking the Clarence and of the seaward Kaikouras. To look up at Tappy and Alarm was a bit frustrating but there was still time to put this to rights tomorrow.

The time came to retreat and we did so by first 'bum sliding' the upper slopes and then tediously plodding, to arrive back at the hut yet another early finish to the day.

Friday - during our Alarm - Tappy Saddle climb it was noted that a hanging valley above Staircase stream gave access via a couloir to the summit ridge of Tapuaenuku. As this route looked safe we decided to use our last day to make a second bid for Tappy.

We followed our old steps up Staircase stream and then headed up the valley side to the hanging valley. Snow in the couloir was secure so we kicked steps up to climb out on the summit ridge just ten windy minutes from the peak. So at 11 'o'clock on Friday morning there we were gazing in awe at the clouds, mountains, sea and the distant North Island. After the frustration of the past few days success had been almost too easy. The wind was too strong to let us linger long in our glory so we made a rapid descent by our well practised methods of bum sliding and were back at the hut before the last remnants of good weather faded behind the clouds.

It rained during the night and the Hodder River was running sufficiently high to cause some difficulty as we made our way out on Saturday. We caught the 6.40 p.m. ferry and were back in our own beds by the early hours of Sunday. In all a good trip in spite of the most frustrating snow conditions.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> September BLACK RIDGE - HINERUA HUT

A Friday night start took us to some decaying buildings at the road end. However, one had some beds where we could sleep the night - with plenty of fresh air. There was some concern next morning in case the other party might catch us up before we left thus defeating the object of the exercise. Our intrepid leader decided we ordinary mortals should navigate our way up the Tukituki River to Rosvall's Track. We were grateful for the practice. We emerged onto Black Ridge with good views of the Sawtooth and Ohuinga which had a good coating of snow - to think that some of us thought ice axes mightn't be necessary. A good night's rest was had at Hinerua Hut. Next morning we proved that Smith's Creek Hut is not where it is marked on the map - ask us if you want to know where it really is - and after lunch at Hinerua we bush bashed and navigated to a major tributary of the Tukituki from where it was an easy trip back to the car.

Participants - Trevor Bissell, Owen Gurr, Christ Saunders.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> September DAPHNE HUT

After van troubles and other delays we eventually began on our way up the Tukituki River. Reaching Daphne Hut we left packs and went racing up to the restyled Howlett's Hut (now a very comfortable hut.)

On Sunday we slowly made our way back out and were home quite early.

Taking part - Katherine Farquar, Kathy Anderson, Don Scott, Colin Hoare.

ARANGA HUT LOG BOOK

15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Arrived 1.30 p.m. with weather deteriorating. Hut found to be inhabited by two F.E. pikers.

16<sup>th</sup> Sept. Several centimetres of snow fallen during night. Going northwest and bashing our way to No Man's Hut Track and back to car.

Suzanne De Roles	)	
Ian Alach	)	
Max Earby	)	P.N.T.M.C.
Grant Ramsey	)	
Karyn Bishop	)	
Colin Hoare	)	

15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September GOLDEN CROWN RIDGE – ROCKSLIDE BIV – NO MAN'S HUT

Wet rain clouds smothered the Ruahines; Heuy knew we were coming.

The F.E.s, Eric and Nic left the Mediums at Golden Crown Ridge and rushed ahead to Aranga Hut, a rather soggy looking apology for a hut, but welcome nevertheless. After lunch there was much debate to attempt to justify why we should pike for the rest of the day. With much soul searching and by a commendable show of self control and restraint we overcame our reflex instincts to strive forth across the ranges and decided to stay put.

The Medium party arrived and were soon persuaded to give up their ideas of a fly camp by the Makaroro. With a rather crowded Aranga Hut established as base for the night three adventurous souls went for a stroll to Piopio to peer into the gloom.

On Sunday we left early to complete the rest of the scheduled trip. This was to bush bash down Rockslide bivvy, which, if marked correctly on the map must be an elusive biv as we never saw it. Then after crossing the Ikawatea we bashed up to the tops again to hit the race track which sweeps round past No Man's Hut, on over Owahui and into the bush to the Golden Crown turn off, from where we dropped down to the farmland and our transport.

Nic Bishop and Eric van Toor.

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September TARARUAS, HEREPAI AND HUAKURA

The weather report (of doubtful origin) was "finer on the Wairarapa side" so we were slightly hopeful as we started off on a cloudy morning from Palmerston North. With our "brilliant" navigation, in an attempt to avoid Eketahuna, we found ourselves confronted with the need to ford the Mangatainoka River. The MK1 (Cortina) didn't like this so we had to find an alternative way to the Mangatainoka road end thus losing any advantage we were hoping to get by avoiding Eketahuna.

Once at the road end we then began tramping – would our navigation be any better on foot? The weather was quite foul now, very windy and raining. Who cares "it's great to be out tramping." Up the Mangatainoka track (the legal access) and onto the ridge where the track turns south towards Roaring Stag Lodge in the Ruamanhanga. We turned North along the old access track until we reached the saddle between Raupae Stream and the Mangatainoka, then bush bashed onto Herepai ridge top. It didn't take much for us to decide not to continue up and along to Dundas – in that weather we wouldn't have reached Dundas Hut that night. So we backtracked down the ridge and headed for the comforts of Roaring Stag Lodge.

Sunday and the weather wasn't much better, up the Raupae Stream over then onto Haukura Ridge to the knob S.E. of the bivvy and then to the bivvy for lunch.

We then headed down into the Raupae via the ridge running N.E. from the knob. This ridge proved better travel than coming up Haukura Ridge itself. Once into the Raupae we found a good ridge that lead onto the saddle between Raupae and the Mangatainoka (where we had started on Saturday up the Herepai Ridge).

Back onto the track, we needed a pole to cross the Mangatainoka – a bit high with the rain. As soon as we had crossed 3 day trippers (Kevin, Karyn and Eric) crossed the river after us also on a Pole. They had been waiting for some experienced trampers to come along so they could find out how to cross the river safely.

So our combined group wandered back to the cars exchanging views on who had done the most (least) on the two (or one) days.

We were (and still are) Bruce Guy, Trevor Bissell, Chrissie Elliot, Nigel Bingham and Terry Crippen.)

### 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October SNOWCRAFT III

Luncheon Friday and Ruapehu was standing up clear after not being visible from Palmerston North for a long time. So with this promising sign we were quite enthusiastic as we set off on Friday night to the NZAC hut (at about 6,500 ft.) above the Top of the Bruce road end. We tramped up to the hut in a beautiful moonlight night. Arriving about midnight we then began to get some sleep, woken at regular intervals from others arriving from Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston by various means.

Most of us set out at 7.00 a.m. to the Pinnacle Ridge, climbing up various gullies and steep slopes. We then traversed the Pinnacles with its slushy granular snow on the sunny N.E. side and hard snow on the S.W. side. Lunch was in the sun high on the ridge. A whiteout after lunch saw us plodding along the ridge onto Te Heu Heu.

Sunday we went over to steep gullies on the south side of Te Heu Heu and Tulino.

The two days saw most of us becoming familiar with steep snow and ice, using ice screws and snow stakes for belaying, leading pitches, and using alpine hammers. The previous Wednesday evening we practised prusiking and cravesse rescue on the Karere glacier south of Longburn.

The moderately fine weather and being on the Whakapapa side of the mountain made the weekend even more worthwhile.

Those on the course were; Nic Bishop, Ron Brown, Phillip Budding, Trevor Bissell, Terry Crippen, Kim Davies, Peter Darragh, Don French, Kevin Pearce, Diane Stanley, Eric van Toor.